

**TWELVE PINELLAS COUNTY CITIES HONORED BY THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION**

**HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Madam Speaker, twelve Pinellas County, Florida cities were honored by the Arbor Day Foundation this year for their commitment to improving the environment.

This Tree City USA designation recognizes the commitment of towns and cities throughout our nation to preserving open lands and to beautify their streets and public lands through the planting of trees and other natural vegetation. Pinellas County, which I have the privilege to represent, has taken significant steps to maintain and enhance our state's natural beauty, even though it is Florida's most densely populated county.

The U.S. Forest Service's Urban and Community Forestry program provides key federal support for these efforts through state and local grants as well as with advice to local community leaders. Together, this federal, state and local initiative is making our communities better places to live.

The 12 Pinellas County communities honored this year as Tree Cities USA are the Town of Belleair led by Mayor George Mariani; the City of Clearwater led by Mayor Frank Hibbard; the City of Dunedin led by Mayor Robert Hackworth; the City of Gulfport led by Mayor Michael Yakes; the City of Largo led by Mayor Patricia Gerard; the City of Oldsmar led by Mayor Jim Ronecker; the City of Safety Harbor led by Mayor Andy Steingold; the City of St. Petersburg led by Mayor Rick Baker; the City of Seminole led by Jimmy Johnson; the City of South Pasadena led by Mayor Dick Holmes; the City of St. Pete Beach led by Mayor Ward Frisvolowski; and the City of Treasure Island led by Mayor Mary Maloof.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I would ask my colleagues in the House to join me in congratulating these 12 cities and the commitment of their residents to making them such special places to live, to work, and to play.

**HONORING MARY LOIS McMILLAN**

**HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Mary Lois McMillan upon her retirement as a Career Counselor at WorkForce Essentials.

Since joining the Franklin Career Center more than fifteen years ago, she has been a cornerstone in the center's efforts to prepare Williamson County citizens for new and challenging careers. During her tenure, the Williamson County office was recognized as Career Center of the Year and received the Business Services Award on multiple occasions. Employers in the county trusted that any candidate she sent to them would be a viable and well-prepared applicant. Mary Lois McMillan is known throughout WorkForce Essentials as a dedicated team player with a tre-

mendous work ethic. She will clearly be missed.

In addition to her efforts at the Career Center, she has consistently given back to the community through her volunteer work with the Williamson County Chamber of Commerce, the Carnton Plantation, the Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, and the Dress for Success program.

Please join me in thanking Mary Lois McMillan for her contributions to our community and to Tennessee. We should all be proud of the work she has done.

**IN RECOGNITION OF THE RETIREMENT OF CAPTAIN DAVID MARTIN KARASEK FROM THE FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL**

**HON. JEFF MILLER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, it is an honor for me to rise today in recognition of Captain David Martin Karasek upon his retirement from the Florida Highway Patrol.

Captain Karasek's commitment to his country and community spans several decades. After serving in the United States Air Force for six years, Captain Karasek attended the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy where he was appointed State Trooper on January 9, 1978. For over ten years, Captain Karasek served various communities in the State of Florida and attained numerous promotions. In 1990, Lieutenant Karasek transferred to the Florida Highway Patrol Training Academy where his experience and dedication made him instrumental in the fashioning of future State Troopers. A year later, Lieutenant Karasek was promoted to Captain and District Commander, where he has served for almost seventeen years.

Throughout his thirty year career with the Florida Highway Patrol, Captain Karasek has been awarded Trooper of the Month on six separate occasions, and in 1981 he was elected Exchange Club Trooper of the Year. From 1992 to 1994, Captain Karasek served as Vice President of the First Judicial Circuit Law Enforcement Association. Escambia County and Northwest Florida communities are deeply indebted to Captain Karasek, whose continual commitment provided safety and security for our roads in Florida.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am proud to honor Captain David Martin Karasek for his enduring allegiance to the State of Florida and our great Nation.

**HONORING CAPTAIN LOREN V. HECKELMAN**

**HON. THELMA D. DRAKE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this moment and thank my constituent, Captain Loren V. Heckelman, for his 28 years of service in the U.S. Navy. Captain Heckelman retired on January 1, 2008.

Captain Loren V. Heckelman served as Fleet Comptroller in the U.S. Atlantic Fleet from July, 2004 to June, 2007, administering a budget of \$8.4 billion.

Prior to July, 2004, he commanded the Fleet and Industrial Supply Center Norfolk, the Navy's largest supply center. In that position, Heckelman was also responsible for Program Manager, Supply and Logistics for the Commander, Navy Region Mid-Atlantic.

He has served in the United States Navy in several abroad tours. He served as supply officer for the nuclear powered aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* while on deployment to the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Ocean and he was recognized as having the best service and sales operations among Navy aircraft carriers. In June, 1995, he acted as the Executive Officer in Yokosuka, Japan.

Heckelman was selected by the Undersecretary of the Navy to serve in the Department of the Navy's 1995 Base Realignment and Closure team, acting as the Infrastructure Analyst and the senior Supply Corps officer.

He served as the Executive Assistant to the Commander, Naval Informative Systems Management Center in Washington, DC.

Before receiving his master's degree of business administration from the University of Michigan, he served on the USS *Carl Vinson* as Stock Control and Readiness Officer.

His first command was on the destroyer USS *Bigelow*, first as Distributing Officer and quickly advancing to Sales Officer.

Highlighting his career in the United States Navy, Captain Heckelman has earned many awards including the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Naval Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation award.

I would like to convey my gratitude and congratulations to Captain Loren V. Heckelman for his 28 year commitment to the United States Navy and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

**HONORING THE ACADEMY REVIEW BOARD AND ACADEMY NOMINEES FOR 2008**

**HON. RODNEY P. FRELINGHUYSEN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 23, 2008*

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Madam Speaker, every year, more high school seniors from the 11th Congressional District trade in varsity jackets for Navy pea coats, Air Force flight suits, and Army brass buckles than most other districts in the country. But this is nothing new—our area has repeatedly sent an above average portion of its sons and daughters to the Nation's military academies for decades.

This fact should not come as a surprise. The educational excellence of area schools is well known and has long been a magnet for families looking for the best environment in which to raise their children. Our graduates are skilled not only in mathematics, science, and social studies, but also have solid backgrounds in sports, debate teams, and other extracurricular activities. This diverse upbringing makes military academy recruiters sit up and take note—indeed, many recruiters know our towns and schools by name.